

## COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) and would like to commend Chairman RAHALL, Speaker PELOSI, and the Democratic leadership for their hard work on this important legislation.

America stands at a crossroads with regard to our country's energy security. In 2008, gasoline and home heating prices have risen to record levels, burdening middle class American families during already tough economic times. This Congress has a choice to make and America's families deserve action.

Congress can continue to follow the path of the past and increase our Nation's addiction on oil companies and foreign produced petroleum from countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Venezuela, and Nigeria. Some voices now claim that the U.S. can achieve energy independence by exploiting all currently protected lands and coastal areas, allowing drilling wherever oil companies want to drill. Of course, since the U.S. consumes twenty-five percent of the world's oil and possesses less than 3 percent of global petroleum reserves, the "drill, baby, drill" rhetoric is both simplistic and simply false.

The American people need to know that government estimates state that if drilling was allowed in all restricted offshore sites and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (a policy I strongly oppose) it would pump only one million extra barrels of oil per day onto the global market by 2025, less than 1 percent of projected global output. For consumers this would translate into a 2 cent reduction in price in the year 2025. The "drill, baby, drill" crowd appears to be committed to advancing the interests of the oil companies while leaving the American people with a potentially miniscule price reduction seventeen years from now. Their proposal is not a policy solution, but rather a political gimmick.

There is another option, a plan to move America forward towards energy independence with a comprehensive energy policy that focuses on investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, conservation, and maximizing the potential of existing fossil fuel sources with the necessary restrictions to protect the environment. Responsible drilling is a part of this plan as a transition to a clean energy future. I will continue to oppose any "give aways" that allow special advantages to oil companies to exploit the limited natural resources belonging to American taxpayers and limit the ability of American families to receive a fair price at the pump.

Today, oil companies have leases on 68 million acres of federal lands. Right now they have access to drill within 182 million acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) surrounding Alaska and the lower 48 states. This bill, H.R. 6899, requires that oil companies make use of these existing leases by commencing exploration on these lands or relinquish their

leases. If more drilling is the goal of the petroleum industry, they currently have the legal authority to do it on 68 million acres of federal land and 182 million acres of the OCS. And, with oil companies profits projected at \$160 billion for 2008, they have the money to do it without federal tax breaks or sweetheart deals at taxpayer expense.

House Democrats recognize that American families are seeking relief from high energy prices and a stabilizing of prices. For this reason this energy bill allows for the release of ten percent of the light crude from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to increase domestic oil supply. In the short-term, allowing this oil onto the market will help to stabilize prices.

It is time to take America in a new direction, moving away from the Bush Administration's policy of dependency on foreign oil and toward bold investments in America's energy future. By repealing \$19 billion dollars worth of unnecessary subsidies to oil companies and investing these funds in clean renewable energy, the Comprehensive American Energy Security Act will create of thousands of new American jobs, reduce America's dependence on foreign energy sources, and ensure responsible stewardship of our environment today and for generations to come.

Today, I reflect the views of my constituents by voting for a forward thinking, comprehensive energy policy. Passing the Comprehensive American Energy Security Act will be a big step towards energy independence and the creation of a green American economy.

I urge my colleagues to support the Comprehensive American Energy Security Act.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

(1) Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK. Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Title III, Defense Procurement Agency (DPA) Account.

Entity Requesting: Surmet Precision Optics, 41618 Eastman Drive, Murrieta, CA 92562.

Description of Earmark: \$4 million is provided for ALON and Spinel Optical Ceramics for transparent armor and for Infrared windows and domes. The availability of these components will impact such major defense acquisition programs as the Joint Common Missile (JCM), the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and the advanced side-winder AIM-9X missile. Government testing has shown ALON to be a premier transparent armor material.

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—Total Project Cost—\$4,200,000 for FY 2009.

Surmet's matching share—\$200,000 for FY 2009.

In addition to the above, Surmet has already invested or committed \$943,171 of Company cost share funds toward the completed and ongoing efforts funded via FY 2006, 2007, and 2008 Defense Appropriations measures. Over

the last five years, Surmet has invested \$20 million of Company funds toward ALON and Spinel optical ceramics technology development.

(2) Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK. Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force; Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E).

Entity Requesting: Exotic Electro-Optics, Inc., 36570 Briggs Road, Murrieta, CA 92563.

Description of Earmark: \$2,720,000 is provided for the purpose of initiating technology development to produce electromagnetic interference (EMI) grids for the Electro Optical Targeting System (EOTS) sensor window and to provide domestic sources for critical defense materials required for the production of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). Funding utilized can help to develop innovative manufacturing technologies that will result in high-throughput and cost-effective processing techniques for these important materials.

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—\$414,800 for basic EMI grid deposition process optimization.

\$272,000 for development of advanced EMI grid deposition processes.

\$442,000 for development of advanced EMI grid materials and architectures.

\$612,000 for development of grid metrology tools.

\$775,200 for development of EMI grid design methods and tools.

\$204,000 for EMI grid over-coating process optimization.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. RAY LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

STEM Education Research Center: \$5 million will be used to create dedicated health sciences research laboratories.

Account: General Provision.

Requesting Entity: Bradley University, 1501 West Bradley Avenue, Peoria, IL 61625.

3D2 Advanced Battery Technology: \$4 million will be used for continued research on graphite foam lead acid batteries. These lighter weight and higher energy-dense battery systems would be used in military vehicles. The porous and conductive nature of the 3D2 plate enables more efficient and deeper discharges coupled with faster and more reliable recharges.

Agency/Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army; Combat Vehicle and Automotive Advanced Technology.

Requesting Entity: Firefly Energy, 5407 North University Street, Arbor Hall, Suite A, Peoria, IL 61614.

Pediatric Medication Administration Product and Training: \$800,000 will be used to provide essential safe care technology and training for the proper medication administration by pediatric nurses at Walter Reed Medical Center and other Army hospitals, as well as in the field in Iraq and Afghanistan to guard against preventable adverse drug events.